THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Non-inclusion of development blocks

†1384. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is appropriate that those development blocks which in fact are educationally backward are not covered just on the plea of low gender gap there, even if, the educational level of the girls in such areas is low; and

(b) the justification for non-inclusion of all the educationally backward development blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The criterion for identification of Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) for the National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme is blocks where the female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average. The rationale is to prioritize blocks where gender discrimination is more.

Closure of Jamia Millia Islamia

1385. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleases to state:

(a) whether Jamia Miilia Islamia, Delhi, a Central University was closed down indefinitely on 19th July, 2006 and the hostellers were asked to vacate the hostels within 48 hours;

(b) if so, the reasons for this drastic action;

(c) whether an inquiry has been conducted into the matter by Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to reopen the university?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.